

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2023

Prepared on October 1, 2023

ITEM NUMBER: 11

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

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ACTION: Information/Discussion

KEY INFORMATION: This item presents a brief overview of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any item.

RACIAL EQUITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

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On February 16, 2023, the Central Coast Water Board adopted [Resolution No. R3-2023-0002 \(Racial Equity Resolution\)](#)¹ Condemning Racism, Xenophobia, Bigotry, and Racial Injustice and Strengthening Commitment to Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access, and Anti-Racism in the Central Coast Region. A key outcome described in the Racial Equity Resolution is to develop a racial equity action plan. During the Board's adoption of the Racial Equity Resolution, Board Members requested that staff provide a racial equity plan update within eight months. This is an update on our efforts to develop a racial equity action plan to advance environmental justice (EJ), racial equity, and tribal engagement in the Central Coast Region.

To optimize the use of limited resources², the Central Coast Water Board's approach is to 1) implement a highly coordinated leadership team to support continuity and positive momentum to integrate EJ, racial equity, and tribal engagement into our organizational culture and water quality programs, 2) consider the [State Water Board's Racial Equity Action Plan](#)³ as a starting point to leverage existing resources and avoid redundancy, 3)

¹ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/press_room/press_releases/docs/2023/r3-2023-0002.pdf

² The Central Coast Water Board does not receive any personnel or contract resources to implement environmental justice, racial equity, or tribal engagement activities.

³ State Water Board Racial Equity Action Plan, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/racial_equity/docs/racial-equity-action-plan-final-en.pdf, See discussion on Strategic Directions starting on page 9.

focus resources on specific desired results and goals, and prioritize actions that will be effective, and 4) utilize the Executive Officer's Report to provide updates to the Board and obtain public input.

Environmental Justice, Racial Equity, and Tribal Engagement Leadership Team

The Central Coast Water Board's EJ, Racial Equity and Tribal Engagement Leadership Team includes Angela Schroeter (Supervising Engineering Geologist, EJ Co-Coordinator), Daniel Ellis (Senior Environmental Scientist, Tribal Coordinator), and Kathy Truong (Water Resource Control Engineer, EJ Co-Coordinator). Each staff person has the capacity to allocate approximately four hours per month to help lead the effort to develop and implement the racial equity action plan. Additional staff will participate as available, dependent on program and organizational priorities.

Leverage the State Water Board's Racial Equity Action Plan

The Central Coast Water Board's racial equity action planning strategy builds upon the public input received on the State Water Board's Racial Equity Action Plan's "Strategic Directions" and public input received during the adoption of the Racial Equity Resolution. Staff is utilizing these Strategic Directions as a framework for preparing a working racial equity action plan for the Central Coast Region:

Strategic Direction #1:

Integrating Racial Equity, Measuring Impact; Infusing the Racial Equity Resolution throughout the Water Boards' policies, programs, and practices; Measuring progress toward goals, and adapting when necessary.

Strategic Direction #2:

Creating and Maintaining Spaces for Inclusion and Belonging; Addressing internal and external representation of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) at all levels of the organization; Elevating overall understanding of racial equity.

Strategic Direction #3:

Activating BIPOC Wisdom and Sharing Power; Fostering open communications for voices of BIPOC communities; Building power in BIPOC communities by cultivating authentic relationships and engaging communities as partners for racial equity; Offering ongoing training, education, and dedicated resources to raise awareness of the Water Board's role in managing the region's water resources; and Incorporating wisdom from BIPOC communities in decision-making processes.

Opportunities for Public Participation and Next Steps

The EJ, Racial Equity, and Tribal Engagement Leadership Team is in the process of developing a working racial equity action plan that is based on the public input received on the State Water Board's Racial Equity Action Plan, and the results of internal and external engagement received during the development of the Racial Equity Resolution for the Central Coast Region. The intention is for the working racial equity action plan to

be a dynamic document that uses a similar format as the State Water Board's Racial Equity Action Plan, including specific actions, lead and supporting staff who are responsible for implementing the actions, the project status/stage, and performance indicators.

Once developed, staff will provide a copy of the working racial equity action plan on the Central Coast Water Board's [Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs, and Racial Equity web page](#)⁴ and share implementation updates with the public, and solicit input using the Environmental Justice email subscription list. Staff will continue to work with the Executive Officer to prioritize the activities in the working racial equity action plan, continually evaluate available staff capacity and resources, and adjust the plan based on internal and external input. In addition, staff will meet with community partners and convene informal listening sessions to provide additional opportunities for public participation. After incorporating the initial internal and external input received, staff will provide a detailed presentation on the working racial equity action plan to the Central Coast Water Board as part of the Annual Environmental Justice Update planned for February 2024.

For More Information

Please visit the Central Coast Water Board's Website on Environmental Justice, Racial Equity, and Tribal Engagement at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/enviro_justice/enviro_justice.html

Subscribe to the Central Coast Water Board's email subscription for Racial Equity, Environmental Justice, and Tribal Engagement at:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAWRCB/subscriber/new?qsp=central_coast

General comments and questions about the Central Coast Water Board's environmental justice and racial equity work can be shared by emailing:

rb3-equity@waterboards.ca.gov

General comments and questions about the Central Coast Water Board's tribal engagement work can be shared by emailing: rb3-tribal@waterboards.gov

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Please see the following standard attachments.

⁴ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/enviro_justice/enviro_justice.html

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Table 1](#) - 401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received
2. [Table 2](#) - 401 Water Quality Certifications Issued
3. [Table 3](#) - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
4. [Table 4](#) - Groundwater Case Closures
5. [Table 5](#) - Enrollments in General Orders/Waivers

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